

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Cavel.) Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the body, I won't take much time on it. This is actually a resolution that does something, believe it or not. I know it is very unusual in the body to have a resolution that does something, but by law for a transaction of this type to take place, there must be at least a resolution passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. So, consequently, it isn't a waste of time. What we have in North Platte is the Buffalo Bill Ranch that is, basically, a state park, and there is 233 acres that will be put on as an addition, given to the Game and Parks as a part of the park to increase Buffalo Bill's State Historical Park's area. To give you an idea, the previous use of this land includes four types of agricultural uses; corral area, which will be outbuildings and corral structures; irrigated hay fields and/or pastures, and this has been graded with canals and laterals installed; native grass pasture; and river frontage would be a part of the 233 acre of land. The proposal for the use of this land addition is to create a state recreation area that compliments Buffalo Bill State Historical Park as Kearney County compliments Fort Kearney, Cottonwood Lake compliments Bowring Ranch, and Rock Creek's campground and picnic areas compliment Rock Creek Station, and the campground at Ash Hollow compliments historical attractions. A campground, picnic area, fishing access, wildlife areas, hiking trails would all be provided. In addition to the traditional state recreation area activities, a horse trail ride operation would also be established. In addition to the fishing resource provided by the North Platte River, it is proposed, to this 233 area plot, that a channel be opened or enhanced and several fishing ponds be created in appropriate low levels of the site. In order to locate the campground in relationship to the wooded areas, away from historical sites, close to the fishing resources, and out of low wet areas, it is proposed to construct it on top of the hogback in the northern half of the site. This would be accomplished by using a none-way road and parallel camping pads. The cut from the opening of the channel and the creation of the ponds would likely be necessary to fill and construct this campground. You have on your desks, colleagues, a map showing the 233 acre plot that would be added. The only thing in closing, at least on this part, is it will be a tremendous asset to the Buffalo Bill Ranch area. It will make it a tremendous asset as far as a tourist and a state park that will compliment